

**TESTIMONY TO ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE, FEBRUARY 13, 2015**  
**RAISED BILL NO. 6727**

To The Committee:

My name is Joseph Gilbert. I am a shellfisherman and I oppose Raised Bill No. 6727 as written.

This bill is a subtle change away from having a deputy commissioner or a person contemplated at time of employment to act in the commissioner's capacity. Such a person would have been selected based on their ability to act impartially on the commissioner's behalf. It would not serve Connecticut well to change this.

This bill would allow the commissioner to appoint at his discretion. This becomes problematic when an administrative hearing is presided over by a hearing officer that is too close to the issue. This creates a dynamic of no external oversight; it consolidates power in a department or bureau that can be predisposed to a decision or opinion and eliminates diversity of opinion which is necessary in any resolution process. This could allow power to pass to the fox that's watching the henhouse who then would decide the chickens were wrong.

Please DO NOT support Raised Bill No. 6727